

# **RDA based Data Model of the Finnish Memory Organizations**

**RDA in the Wider World (August 11, 2016)**

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# Starting points

- In 2014, Finnish memory organizations (libraries, archives and museums) decided to align their metadata, in order to
  - prevent any overlap in cataloguing
  - improve the quality of metadata
  - support better the user interface *Finna* (shared by the Finnish memory organizations)
- Besides libraries, archives and museums, the whole public sector in Finland strives for interoperable metadata and common data architecture

## Starting points (2)

- RDA was chosen to one of the recommended standards for libraries, archives and museums
- Archive and museum sectors decided to implement the RDA instructions of agent metadata, i.e.
  - Chapters 8-11: attributes of person, family and corporate body
  - Chapters 29-32: relationships between person, family and corporate body
  - Appendix K: relationship designators for person, family and corporate body

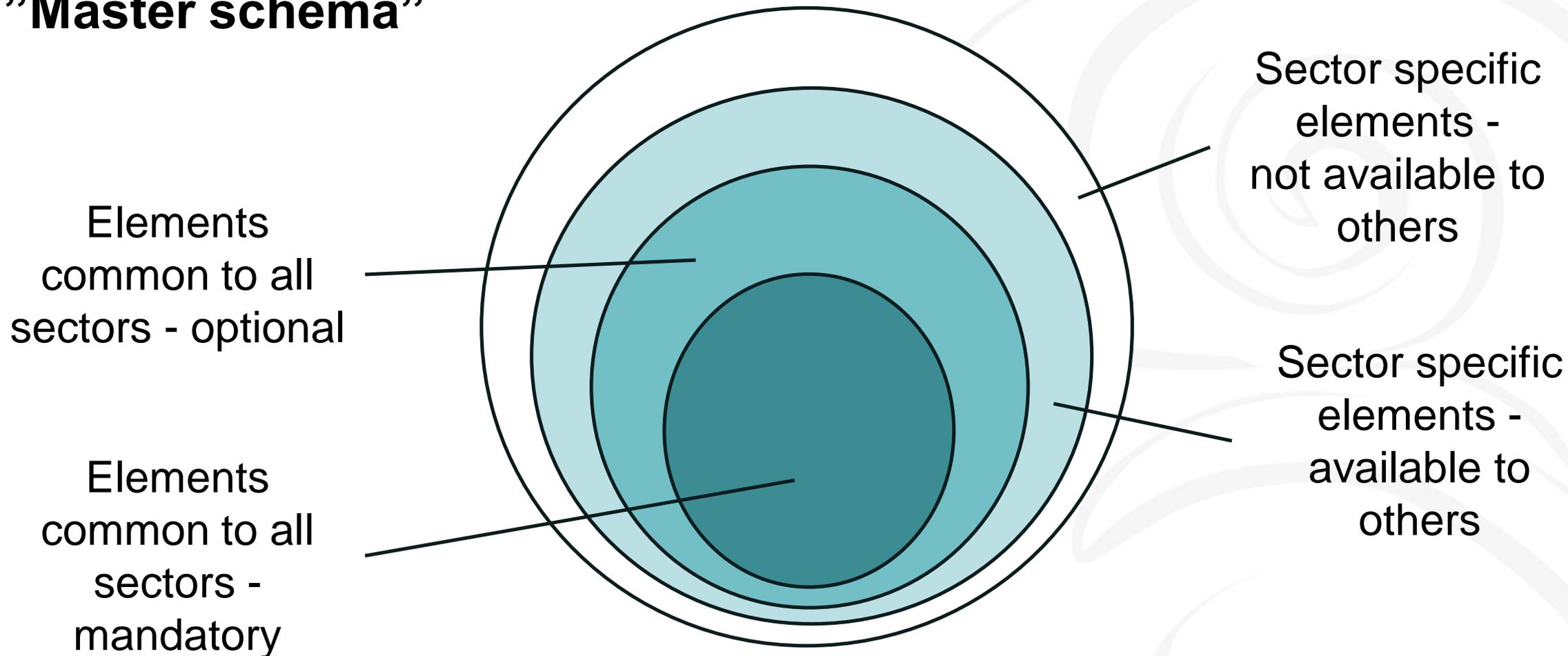
# Common ground

- Comparing the concept models of the memory organizations:
  - libraries focus on resources whereas archives and museums take into account context and temporal dimension
  - easiest to start alignment with agent (person, family and corporate body) metadata
- Aiming to create a shared (meta)data repository for agent metadata (by 2019)

# First phase: a data model

- Creating a RDA based data model for agent metadata (in 2015-2016), including
  - all the RDA (agent) elements: core and optional
  - most of the ISNI (International Standard Name identifier) elements
  - most of the EU (European Union) Core Vocabulary elements
  - elements specific only to archives, museums or libraries
- "Master schema" = all the metadata elements useful for libraries, archives and museums

# ”Master schema”



Sector = archive, museum or library sector

# Layout of the data model

- Lists
  - of identifying and describing elements
  - of elements of administrative metadata (metametadata), e.g.
    - status of identification and maintenance history
- Lists include:
  - name, identifier and short description of an element
  - information of an element being repeatable or mandatory
  - mappings between standards (like RDA, ISNI, EU core, EAC-CPF, MARC21, Spectrum)

## Layout of the data model (2)

- Detailed specifications of some elements:
  - relationship, time, place, identifier, name and display restriction
  - specifications are about:
    - type, time span, language, attributes and values
  - e.g.
    - what are the types of an element
    - which language codes are used
    - are values of an element included in the data model or are they in a separate ontology/vocabulary

# The main issues in the datamodel

- Differences between memory organizations in the following matters:
  - defining an agent
  - choosing a preferred name of an agent
  - authorized access point
  - level of granularity, e.g. about time, name, type

# Defining an agent

- In RDA, one (real life) agent may have several entities, e.g.
  - when a corporate body changes its name
  - when a person has several public identities
- Archives and museums create only one record for one (real life) agent including the whole history of agent in it
- **Compromise:**
  - follow RDA whenever a shared record is created or used by libraries
  - otherwise, follow the practice of archives and museums in the shared data repository

## Preferred name of an agent

- Preferred source of information (e.g. a title page or similar source) is not always available at archives and museums
- Preferred name determined by archives and museums might be different than preferred name in RDA
- **Compromise:**
  - if possible, archives and museums try to record a RDA preferred name
  - if not, the element *RDA preferred name* is left unrecorded and the name is recorded to the element *Preferred name*
  - Libraries will add the *RDA preferred name* later to the record

## Preferred name of an agent (2)

- Consequently:
  - lots of various types of names (preferred and others) in a record
  - the same name in different elements and different names in one element
  - no deleting names but tagging names by the sectors

# Authorized access point (AAP)

- AAP not relevant to archives and museums but they are ready to record elements needed for AAP
  - e.g. *place associated with the family* which is mandatory only when needed to distinguish a family from another family with the same name.
- Instead of AAP, metadata as a whole identifies an agent at archives and museums
  - not only attributes but also relationships support identifying of an agent

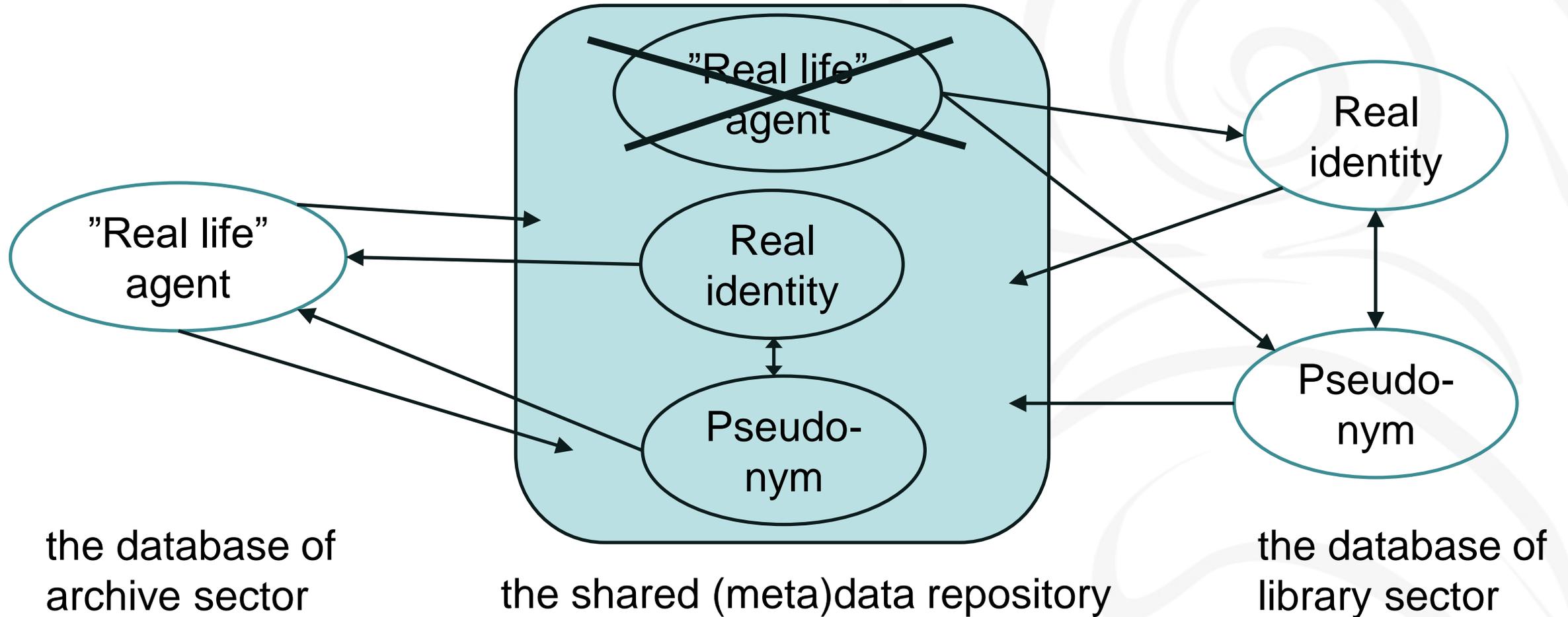
# Level of granularity

- Archives need to define a type of agent more precisely than RDA
  - a separate ontology of agent types will be created and linked to the shared (meta)data repository
- Time:
  - archives and museums record months and days in addition to years
  - time elements in the data model consist of both start and end dates: not separate elements for e.g. date of birth and date of death
- Name is divided into subelements *given name* and *family name*

## Second phase: metadata exchange

- Planning of metadata transfer between the shared data repository and databases of each sector (Autumn 2016 – Spring 2017)
- Differences in the level of granularity between the data model and e.g. libraries' MARC21 require detailed planning of conversions, replication rules and double control of records
- Aim is to avoid any data loss, e.g.
  - the element *official name* (in the repository) is converted to the element *variant name* (in the library database) but the *variant name* doesn't override the *official name* when it is converted back to the data repository

# Example of metadata transfer: "Real life" agent vs. RDA entity



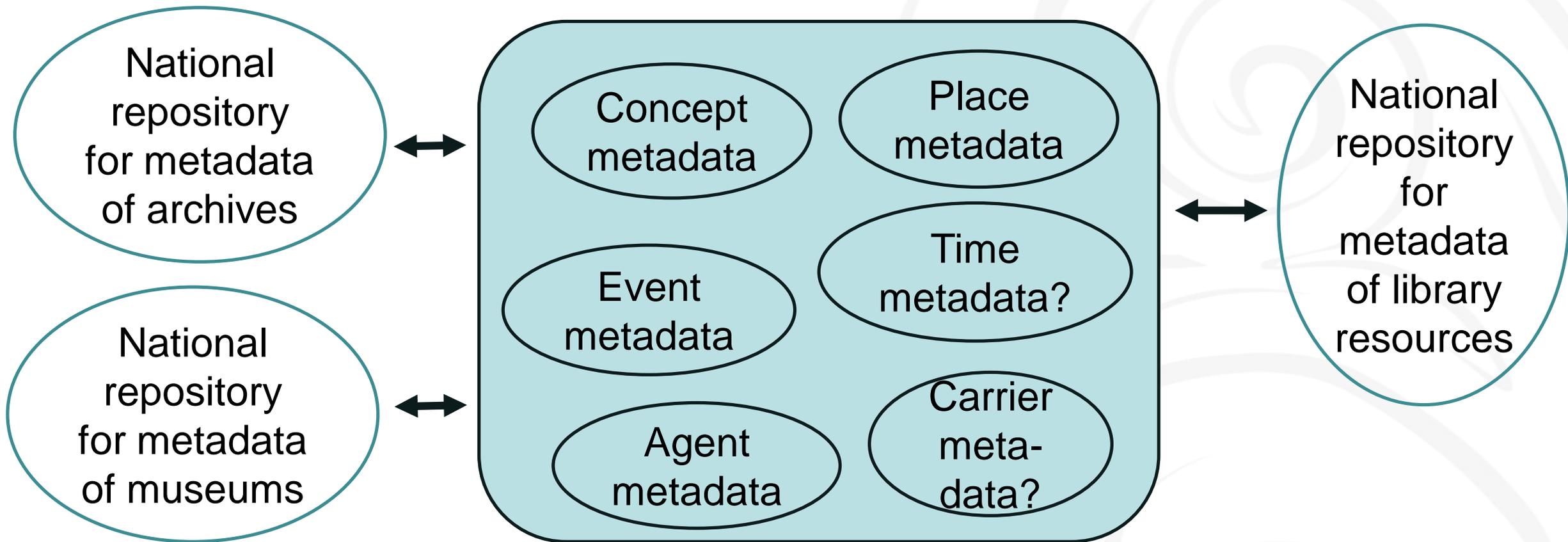
## Third phase: implementation

- Planning of implementation (in 2017-2018)
- The 4 years' vision is to create a production system which could be fully integrated to cataloger's interface
  - need for a new information system free from MARC21 or other old formats
  - in addition, closed ILSs of the library sector must be renewed
- Responsibility issues:
  - “editorial board” accepts new proposals for agents and solves disagreements in cataloguing
  - every sector takes responsibility over larger variety of agents than before

# Other initiatives in metadata co-operation

- National Metadata Vocabulary:
  - RDA based registry and vocabulary for libraries, archives and museums
  - includes links to the international RDA Registry
- Place ontology:
  - planning has started: co-operation through the whole public sector
  - the first challenge is to determine the entity *place*
- Event ontology?

# Data architecture in future?



Shared metadata repositories in public sector

## Useful links

- EU core vocabulary: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/category/glossary/core-vocabulary>
- ISNI standard: [http://www.iso.org/iso/catalogue\\_detail?csnumber=44292](http://www.iso.org/iso/catalogue_detail?csnumber=44292)
- User interface *Finna*: <https://finna.fi>
- National Metadata Vocabulary: <http://finto.fi/mts/en/>
- Finnish Thesaurus and Ontology service *Finto*: <http://finto.fi/en/>
- RDA Registry: <http://www.rdaregistry.info/>

**Thank you!**

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